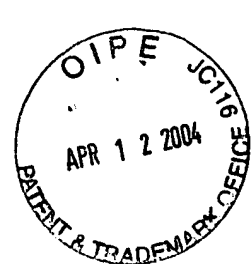


REMARKS

In the Office action mailed January 9, 2004, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on U.S. Pat. No. 5,392,804 to Kondo et al., claim 2 was indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form, and claims 3-15 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 to the term “straddle-type.”

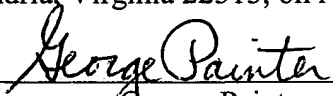
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indications of allowability, and hereby rewrite claim 2 in independent form and amend claims 3-15 by deleting “straddle-type” and “-type”. Applicants nonetheless make of record their belief that the term “straddle-type” when used to refer to a seat for a four wheeled vehicle, or to the four wheeled vehicle itself, is sufficiently definite to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, since those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that it refers to a seat that is straddled by a user during operation of the vehicle, or to a vehicle having such a seat. This understanding is supported by the fact that the USPTO has issued numerous patents to the assignee of the present application that include the term “straddle-type” in the description and claims.



The above amendments and remarks are believed to address fully the Examiner's rejections, and place the application in condition for allowance. A prompt indication of the same respectfully is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephonic interview.

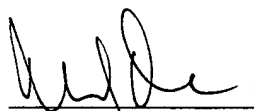
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on April 6, 2004.


George Painter

Date of Signature: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Mark D. Alleman
Customer No. 23581
Registration No. 42,257
of Attorneys for Applicants
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

RECEIVED
APR 16 2004
GROUP 3600